

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



Captain Glenn Cramer
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wa.gov/wsp/wsphone.htm>

February 14, 2003

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Lieutenant Sean Hartsock
(360) 570-5241**

Washington State Patrol & Department of Corrections Partnership to Monitor Sex and Kidnapping Offenders

Chief Ronal Serpas announced today that the Washington State Patrol (WSP) is offering another tool to allow local law enforcement agencies to more closely monitor sex and kidnapping offenders. The WSP is responsible for maintaining databases containing arrest warrants, stolen property, and other criminal justice information. One aspect of this service allows the Department of Corrections (DOC) to flag the names of high-risk individuals who are under DOC supervision. If one of these individuals is subsequently stopped by a law enforcement officer and a wants check is conducted through the WSP system, DOC is electronically notified. The DOC can then contact the officer who ran the inquiry and determine the nature of the contact.

The WSP is now expanding the use of this same file to allow law enforcement agencies to enter the names of the sex and kidnapping offenders they track. As with the DOC process, when a sex or kidnapping offender is contacted by law enforcement and a wants check is run, the supervising agency is electronically notified. The supervising agency can then contact the officer who ran the wants check to determine the nature of the stop. This will allow law enforcement agencies to determine whether there may have been a violation of the conditions of release of particular sex and kidnapping offenders. For example, if the contact occurred near a school or daycare center and the offender is under court direction to avoid those areas—then the court may revoke the release status and send the offender back to confinement.

“The State Patrol is committed to assisting law enforcement agencies throughout the state and will continue to implement changes to our systems that ensure safer communities for citizens of Washington State,” stated Chief Serpas.

###